

Wabash Plain Dealer

Shining light on Wabash County since 1859.



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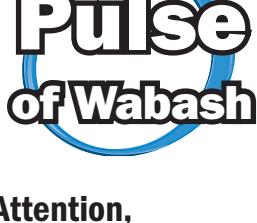


WabashPlainDealer

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WEEKEND EDITION APRIL 18-19, 2020

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Attention, Class of 2020

The Wabash Plain Dealer is launching an interactive campaign to celebrate our Wabash County seniors! With COVID-19 disrupting graduation plans and daily life for our students, we want to do something special to commemorate their hard work and memories. We will be posting photo challenges at www.facebook.com/wabashpd and the best submissions will be featured on our website and in a special section published at the end of the school year. Submit your favorite memories to news@wabashplaindealer.com or post your memories and photos to your social media page using the hashtag #WCClassof2020 to participate.

Notice to readers

To reduce risks to our employees and community, the Wabash Plain Dealer is closed to the public until further notice. Payments may be dropped in the mail slot or called in. For news, call 260-225-4662 or email news@wabashplaindealer.com. For advertising, call 260-225-4947 or email tcampbell@pmgini.com. For circulation and customer support, call 260-563-2131. To bring you the most accurate information about the evolving COVID-19 pandemic, the Wabash Plain Dealer has decided to prioritize news content over sports stories since sporting events are canceled for the time being. The Wabash Plain Dealer is committed to providing the best product to its customers and appreciates the support during this time. Thank you.

Wabash County under a code yellow travel advisory

The lowest level of local travel advisory, code yellow means that routine travel or activities may be restricted in areas because of a hazardous situation, and individuals should use caution or avoid those areas, according to the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

Red Cross schedules blood donation opportunity for April 21

The Red Cross has scheduled a blood donation opportunity from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 21 at First United Methodist Church, 110 N. Cass St.

Walorski to hold virtual info session

Grow Wabash County has invited investors to join Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-Indiana, for a virtual information and question-and-answer session at 11 a.m. Friday, April 24 about COVID-19 and what's being done on the national level. For those interested in participating, complete the registration form at <https://tinyurl.com/r3pfwea> or email marketing @growwabashcounty.com by Thursday, April 23 to receive the details about

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Stay-at-home order to be extended through May 1

Previous order was to expire Tuesday

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

executive order next week to extend the current stay-at-home order to Friday, May 1.

The stay-at-home order originally extended to Tuesday, April 7.

The previous order extension, announced Friday, April 3, was set to expire Tuesday, April 21.

During the press conference, Holcomb noted the shortening of the time frame of the new order. If it had followed the previous timeline of two weeks,

the new order would have extended to Tuesday, May 5. However, the order set to be signed next week will only last for 10 days instead of 14 days.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

Celebrating National Library Week, virtually



Provided photo

On Friday, April 24, the North Manchester Public Library will celebrate #NMPLUNDERCOVER Friday, during which participants will recreate their favorite book or movie cover with family or random household items and tag it using #NMPLundercover.

NMPL marks the occasion with first-ever online-only observance

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

The North Manchester Public Library (NMPL) has

announced they are celebrating National Library Week this year from April 19 to 25 in a whole new way by hosting their first-ever Virtual National Library Spirit Week, stated Jeanna Hann,

adult department manager and marketing coordinator, in a Tuesday statement to the Plain Dealer.

"National Library Week is an annual celebration highlighting the valuable role libraries, librarians and library workers play in transforming lives and strengthening our communities," stated Hann. "Each day will

have a special theme and fun activity for all patrons to participate in, along with the chance to win an awesome NMPL hoodie sweatshirt."

Hann stated they encouraged all patrons to get involved via their website at www.nman.lib.in.us and social media pages on Instagram and Facebook with each daily challenge.

"Simply tag the library in your photos to be entered to win," stated Hann.

The schedule of planned daily events includes:

■ Sunday, April 19 – Shelfie Sunday: "Show us your shelves. We want to see your books, DVDs, collectibles and more," stated Hann.

See LIBRARY, page A3

ISDH reports new positive Wabash County case; total now 9

A total of 98 tests have been conducted locally to date

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

On Friday, the Indiana State Department of Health confirmed a new positive case of COVID-19 in Wabash County.

That brings the total of confirmed local cases to nine.

So far, there have been 98 tests conducted and no deaths reported in Wabash County.

Keith Walters, Wabash County Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency director, stated no additional information on local cases was available due to privacy concerns, in response to a previous Plain Dealer request.

The state has placed an increased focus on testing during the past few days. Dr. Kristina Box, state health commissioner, said during Thursday's televised press conference that over 1,300 COVID-19 tests had been conducted between Monday and Wednesday at four drive-thru locations including Evansville, Fort Wayne, Gary and Sellersburg. Those centers were open through Friday. She said that made the total number of drive-thru tests conducted as of Wednesday to 2,400 including the previous testing conducted at a site in Merrillville.

Statewide, the ISDH announced that 642 additional Hoosiers have been diagnosed with COVID-19 through testing at ISDH, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and private laboratories. That brings to 10,154 the total number of Indiana residents known to have the novel coronavirus following corrections to the previous day's total.

A total of 519 Hoosiers have died to date. Deaths are reported based on when data are received by ISDH and occurred over multiple days.

To date, 54,785 tests have been reported to ISDH, up from 51,115 on Thursday.

Marion County had the most new cases, at 207. Other counties with more than 10 new cases were Allen (47), Bartholomew (13),

See CASES, page A2

Midwest governors announce partnership to reopen regional economy

Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky working together

STAFF REPORT

On Thursday, Govs. Eric J. Holcomb, of Indiana; Gretchen Whitmer, of Michigan; Mike DeWine, of Ohio; Tony Evers, of Wisconsin; Tim Walz, of Minnesota; JB Pritzker, of Illinois; and Andy Beshear, of Kentucky announced that they will work in close coordination to reopen the economy in the Midwest region, according to Rachael Hoffmeyer, Holcomb's press secretary.

"We are doing everything we can to protect the people

of our states and slow the spread of COVID-19, and we are eager to work together to mitigate the economic crisis this virus has caused in our region. Here in the Midwest, we are bound by our commitment to our people and the community. We recognize that our economies are all reliant on each other, and we must work together to safely reopen them so hardworking people can get back to work and businesses can get back on their feet," they stated in

See GOVERNORS, page A2

Indiana Election Commission adopts additional primary procedures

The election was recently moved to June 2

STAFF REPORT

In response to recommendations from Governor Eric Holcomb, Secretary of State Connie Lawson, and the leadership of Indiana's major political parties, the Indiana Election Commission has issued an order implementing policy changes for the June 2 Primary Election, according to Ian Hauer, deputy communications director at the Indiana Secretary of State's office.

This follows a previous order issued March 25.

The Commission's order included the following changes, which will apply to the June 2 primary only:

■ Limited early in-person voting will be available for one week, from May 26 to June 1.

■ Poll workers are currently required to live in the county they work for. This requirement is waived so long as the voter is registered to vote in Indiana.

■ The Secretary of State and the Indiana Election Division will provide counties with training and guidelines on mail handling procedures and personal protective equipment.

■ The commission advises that all public buildings, such as fire stations and school buildings, be available for use for the June 2nd

Primary

■ All absentee ballot applications submitted after Dec. 2 will be accepted regardless of the excuse given, as long as they are otherwise compliant with Indiana law.

■ County election boards may adopt more than one central count location.

■ Counties may move a polling location after giving the best possible notice to the public.

The commission is next scheduled to meet at 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 22.

Eligible Hoosiers can register to vote online, check their registration status, and request an absentee ballot by visiting www.IndianaVoters.com.

GOVERNORS

From page A1

a joint statement. "Today, we are announcing that Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky will work in close coordination to reopen our economies in a way that prioritizes our workers' health. We look forward to working with experts and taking a fact-based, data-driven approach to reopening our economy in a way that protects families from the spread of COVID-19. Our number one priority when analyzing when best to reopen our economy is the health and

safety of our citizens. We will make decisions based on facts, science, and recommendations from experts in health care, business, labor, and education."

The governors stated they will closely examine at least these four factors when determining when best to reopen the economy:

- Sustained control of the rate of new infections and hospitalizations.

- Enhanced ability to test and trace.

- Sufficient health care capacity to handle resurgence.

- And best practices for social distancing in the workplace.

"Phasing in sectors of our

economy will be most effective when we work together as a region. This doesn't mean our economy will reopen all at once, or that every state will take the same steps at the same time. But close coordination will ensure we get this right. Over time, people will go back to work, restaurants will reopen, and things will go back to normal. We look forward to working together as one region to tackle this challenge together," they stated.

For more information, visit the ISDH website at coronavirus.in.gov and the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

CASES

From page A1

Hamilton (21), Hendricks (29), Johnson (13), LaPorte (19), Lake (54), Madison (22), Porter (10), Shelby (11) and St. Joseph (56). The Lake County totals include results from East Chicago

and Gary, which have their own health departments.

The complete list of counties with cases is included in the ISDH COVID-19 dashboard at coronavirus.in.gov. Cases are listed by county of residence. Private lab reporting may be delayed and will be reflected in the map and count when results are

received at ISDH. The dashboard will be updated at noon each day.

The dashboard also has been updated to make corrections based on updated information provided to ISDH.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

5-Day Weather Summary

Saturday
Mostly Sunny
52 / 40



Sunday
Isolated Rain
54 / 34



Monday
Mostly Sunny
55 / 44



Tuesday
Partly Cloudy
57 / 39



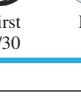
Wednesday
Isolated Rain
60 / 46

Sun and Moon

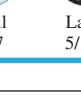
Today's sunset 8:31 p.m.
Tomorrow's sunrise 7:02 a.m.



New
4/22



First
4/30



Full
5/7



Last
5/14

Detailed Local Outlook

Today we will see mostly sunny skies with a high temperature of 52°, humidity of 57%. Southwest wind 7 to 17 mph. Expect partly cloudy skies tonight with an overnight low of 40°. South southwest wind 9 to 16 mph. The wind chill for tonight could reach 34°.

Bored woman overspends on home shopping channels

DEAR HARRIETTE: My mom lives in an assisted-living community, and they are all shut down now. We can't visit, and my mom says she's bored out of her mind. I get that. My family and I feel the same way. What I learned, though, is that my mom has been going to town buying

unnecessary stuff on QVC and HSN. I pay her bills, and I just got an alert that she had spent beyond her credit limit. I am mortified. On top of everything else, now I have a huge bill to pay for stuff she doesn't need. How can I get my mom to stop shopping? — Daily Fix

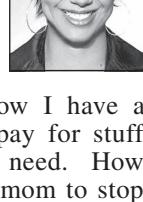
DEAR DAILY FIX: You need to have a heart-to-heart with your mother. Tell her the truth: She has been overspending on her TV purchases, and you do not have the money to pay for the things she has bought. Tell her that the credit card company has called to alert you of her purchases. Ask her to stop.

More important, though, is for you to call the credit card company and have her spending frozen for now. You can request the freeze without damaging your credit. What will happen when your mother tries to make a purchase next is that she will be denied. This will be disappointing to her but important for you to manage your budget.

DEAR HARRIETTE: My husband and I have been living it up since we have been quarantined, and I think it's getting out of control. Starting early in the morning, he sits around sipping a beer and eating junk food. Just about every day I join him for a couple — or more — drinks. It's not smart. I can see that we have gained weight, but more than that, it's awful to be filling our bodies with so much bad stuff. It's like party central for us, even though I'm still working. My husband got laid off, and he seems to have let himself go.

I am worried about us. If we are home too much longer, who knows what's going to happen to us? I feel like we really have to

Harriette Cole
Sense & Sensitivity



Wabash Plain Dealer



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and 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Friday-Sunday:
Hours vary

■ Call: 260-563-2131

■ Email: news@wabashplaindealer.com

(Please call in advance of your visit.)

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68K MILES

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\$7,900

17 CHEVY TRAVERSE LT 7 PASSENGER, ROOM FOR WHOLE FAMILY
\$23,300
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\$18,680
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Obituaries

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Joby Kunkler Kaufman

Joby Kunkler Kaufman, 82, of Andrews, passed away at 7:56 a.m. on Thursday, April 16, 2020, at her residence.

Joby married Gene Robert Kaufman on March 25, 1959. Joby was Co-owner of Etna Acres.

Joby and Gene raised two daughters: JoDee (Gary) Dale, and Jeannie (Bob) Stienke.

PENDING SERVICES

Jo Ann Hettmansperger: 86, of Indianapolis, formerly of Wabash, died at 2:31 a.m. Friday, April 17, 2020 at Indiana University West Hospital, in Avon, Indiana. Services are pending at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash.

Jean A. Waymire: 84, of rural Wabash, died at 8:43 a.m. Friday, April 17, 2020 at her home. Services are pending at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash.

PULSE

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how to access this virtual session.

Closings announced due to COVID-19 concerns

■ Access Youth Center: All scheduled after school and weekend programming is canceled until further notice.

■ BMV: Closed until further notice. The phone number is 888-692-6841 and the lines are open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays. For more information, visit <https://www.in.gov/bmv/4363.htm>.

■ Community Foundation of Wabash County: Individuals with questions may email patty@cfwabash.org or julie@cfwabash.org, or call 260-982-4824.

■ Division of Family Resources: Offices closed until further notice. Visit the FSSA benefits portal at www.fssabenefits.in.gov. DFR staff is available by phone at 800-403-0864 to provide customer service from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Clients may also continue to send documents to DFR via mail at P.O. Box 1810, Marion, IN 46952.

■ Farm Service Agency: County offices are open in Indiana by phone appointment only until further notice, and staff is available to continue helping agricultural producers with program signups, loan servicing and other important actions. Call 260-563-7486.

■ Honeywell Foundation: All events at foundation properties including the Honeywell Center, Honeywell House, Eagles Theatre, Dr. James Ford Historic Home and Charley Creek Gardens are suspended through at least Saturday, April 11.

■ Living Well in Wabash County: The Community Cupboard pantry will operate as a drive-through with regular pantry hours, which are from 3 to 5 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays; closed Wednesdays; and open from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays. Senior lunches at Winchester Senior Center will be operated as a drive-through at the front door of the senior center from 11 to 11:30 a.m. Monday through Friday. Lunch reservations continue to require 48 business hours of reservations.

Seniors age 60 and older wanting a lunch must call Winchester Senior Center at 260-563-4475.

■ Manchester Community Schools: Closed through the rest of the school year. Current e-learning days include Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

■ Manchester University: Remote teaching for students will last through the end of the semester. Residence halls will close for the remainder of the semester. All campus activities for the remainder of the

semester have been canceled or postponed. Spring Commencement ceremonies are canceled.

■ MSD: Closed through the rest of the school year.

■ The North Manchester Center for History: Temporarily closed to the public. The Crossroads: Change in Rural America exhibit is available through video on the NHCH Facebook page at www.facebook.com/NorthManchesterHistory.

■ North Manchester Public Library: Closed until further notice. Except for hotspots, no materials will be due during the closure. All online events will stream on the NMPL

Facebook at www.facebook.com/NorthManchesterPublicLibrary and will then be archived on the Online Programming Archive. For more information, email nmpl@nman.lib.in.us, call 260-982-4773 or visit www.nman.lib.in.us.

■ St. Bernard School: Closed through the rest of the school year.

■ Wabash Carnegie Public Library: Closed until further notice. Overdue fines for all times except Wi-Fi hotspots waived until further notice. For more information, email warew@wabash.lib.in.us or www.wabash.lib.in.us or www.facebook.com/WabashCarnegieLibrary.

■ Wabash City Hall: All public meetings postponed. Citizens should visit www.cityofwabash.com to pay bills for wastewater, ambulance billing and building department permits. City court offers pay by phone services. Phone calls to the main Wabash City Hall

number at 260-563-4171 will be answered by voicemail.

Questions regarding COVID-19 can also be directed to the new email address at covid-19info@cityofwabash.com.

Anyone with questions should call 260-274-1485 or email mayor@cityofwabash.com.

■ Wabash City Schools: Closed through the rest of the school year. Current e-learning days include Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

regarding their refund.

■ Honeywell House: Cabaret!!!, Dinner Chamber Series "Opus Two," Conversations on Renovation and Eagles Theatre Ballroom Dances into the Future will be rescheduled, but does not yet have a set date.

■ Eagles Theatre: Top of the Charts rescheduled for Thursday, June 18. Tribute to John Denver rescheduled for Thursday, July 23. Buckets N Boards will be rescheduled but does not yet have a set date.

Comedian Michael Palascak to perform at Lagro benefit event

"Dia de Lagro" will take place Tuesday, May 5 at the Eads Barn, 4725 E. 200 North, Urbana. Appetizers, cocktails, singer Kimberly Rutledge and Emcee Reed Christiansen are set to begin at 5:30 p.m. A Mexican-themed dinner, catered by Gallery 64, will begin at 6 p.m. with comedian Michael Palascak taking the stage at 7 p.m. Tickets for the event are \$75 each, \$125 per couple or \$500 for a table of eight. For more information, visit lagrocanalfoundation.com. Those interested in donating prizes for the silent auction or would like to become a main sponsor may email lagrocanalfoundation@gmail.com.

Red Cross schedules blood donation opportunity for May 13

The Red Cross has scheduled a blood donation opportunity from 1 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 13 at Richvalley Community Center, 56 W. Mill St.

Farmers market season set to begin May 16

The Downtown Wabash Farmers Market opens from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 16 in the Honeywell Center/Wabash Elk's Parking Lot. The market occurs every Saturday through Sept. 26. If you are interested in becoming a vendor or volunteering at the event, call 260-563-0975 or visit www.wabashmarketplace.org.

'LIBERATE!': Trump pushes states to lift virus restrictions

By ZEKE MILLER and MATT SEDENSKY

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump urged supporters to "LIBERATE" three states led by Democratic governors Friday, apparently encouraging the growing protests against the stay-at-home restrictions aimed at stopping the coronavirus.

A day after laying out a road map to gradually reopen the crippled economy, Trump took to Twitter with the kind of rhetoric some of his supporters have used in demanding the lifting of the orders that have thrown millions of Americans out of work.

"LIBERATE MINNESOTA!" "LIBERATE MICHIGAN!" "LIBERATE VIRGINIA," he said in a tweet-storm in which he also lashed out at New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo for criticizing the federal response. Cuomo "should spend more time 'doing' and less time 'complaining,'" the president said.

Responding to pleas from governors for help from Washington in ramping up testing for the virus, Trump put the burden back on them: "The States have to step up their TESTING!"

On Thursday, the president detailed a three-step set of

guidelines for easing restrictions over a span of several weeks in places that have robust testing and are seeing a decrease in COVID-19 cases, assuring the nation's governors: "You're going to call your own shots."

Some states did take some of the nation's first, small steps toward loosening restrictions.

In Florida, GOP Gov. Ron DeSantis gave the green light for municipalities to reopen beaches and parks if they can do so safely. In Texas, Republican Gov. Greg Abbott said stores can begin selling curbside, nonessential surgery can resume and state parks can reopen.

But governors of both parties Friday suggested they would be cautious in returning to normal, with some of them warning that they can't do it without help from Washington to expand testing.

Worldwide, the outbreak has infected more than 2.2 million people and killed over 150,000, according to a Johns Hopkins University tally based on figures supplied by government health authorities around the globe, though it has become increasingly clear that the true numbers are much higher.

The official death toll in the U.S. neared 35,000, with about 685,000 confirmed infections.

Seniors age 60 and older wanting a lunch must call Winchester Senior Center at 260-563-4475.

■ Manchester Community Schools: Closed through the rest of the school year. Current e-learning days include Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

LIBRARY

From page A1

■ Monday, April 20 — Mindful Monday: "Do some yoga poses. Meditate. Journal. Color. Take a nature walk. Do something relaxing," stated Hann.

■ Tuesday, April 21 — Team Tuesday: "Show off your favorite team gear," stated Hann.

■ Wednesday, April 22 — Wacky Wednesday: "Wacky socks. Wacky hair. Show us your silly side," stated Hann.

■ Thursday, April 23 — Throwback Thursday: "Miss the '70s, '80s or '90s? Dig in the closet and rock your favorite throwback looks," stated Hann.

■ Friday, April 24 — #NMPLUNDERCOVER Friday: "Recreate your favorite book or movie cover with family or random household items and tag it using #NMPLundercover," stated Hann.

■ Saturday, April 25 — Superhero Saturday: "Dress up as your favorite superhero," stated Hann. "Or celebrate our doctors, nurses, grocery



Sarah Morbitzer, children's department manager, left, helps re-create the cover of the Joanne Harris novel, "Chocolat."

workers, and other everyday heroes."

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer

er editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

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Opinion

SPEAK UP

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To email any
Indiana lawmaker,
go to this website:
www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl

LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 99 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplaindealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.



DAILY SCRIPTURE

Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future.

— Proverbs 19:20

Yes, the Navy must reinstate Brett Crozier, coronavirus hero

In an unexpected flicker of good sense, the U.S. Navy is said to be considering reinstating Capt. Brett Crozier to the command of the USS Theodore Roosevelt aircraft carrier.

We'll go one better: Give this exemplary officer a medal.

After the leak of Crozier's late March letter to 20-plus higher-ups — begging his ship to be evacuated after a coronavirus outbreak infected 115 of the nearly 5,000-person crew — Crozier was wrongly relieved of his command by then-acting Navy Secretary

Thomas Modly, who later resigned in a backlash.

At the time, the commander-in-chief, Donald Trump, joined in the fusillade, saying the letter "looked terrible." "He shouldn't be talking that way," he said, because "this isn't a class on literature."

Don't expect Trump to know a profile in courage when he sees one. Crozier had gotten no response on his urgent request to evacuate the ship and quarantine the afflicted. His immediate superior, Rear Adm. Stuart P. Baker, had overruled him and the ship's

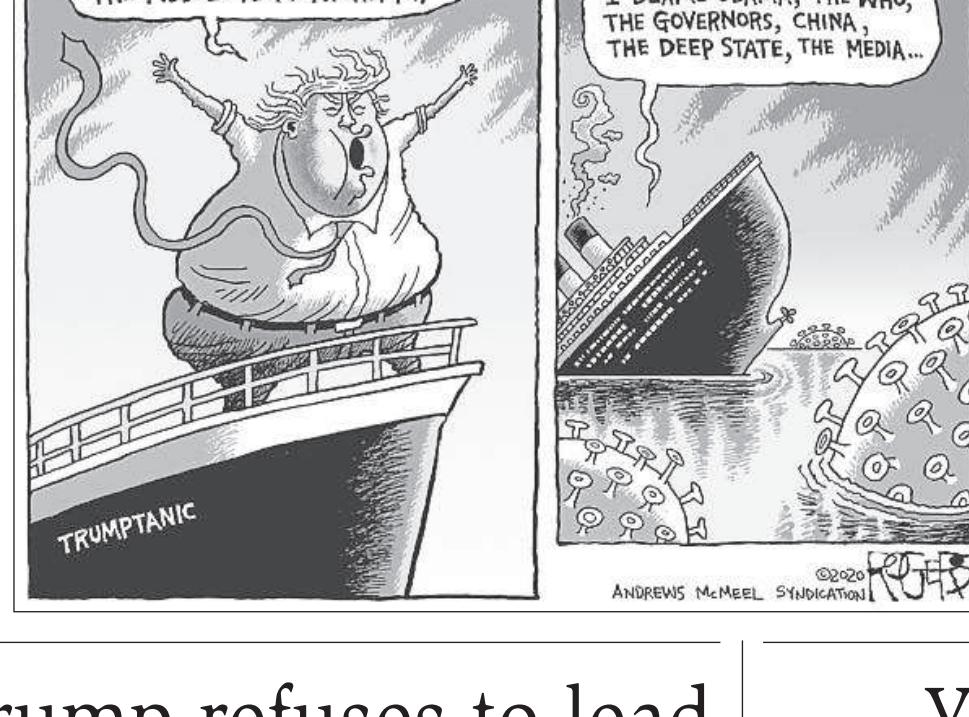
medical staff urging swift action.

It turns out, Crozier's concern was well-warranted. Hundreds of the vessel's company have now been infected — including Crozier — and the death of a sailor was the first worldwide COVID fatality for the active-duty military.

Calling out the brass is typically verboten in the Armed Services. But so is abandoning your crew.

Faced with two competing values, Crozier chose the higher one. Salute him.

This editorial was first published in the New York Daily News.



Trump refuses to lead a country in crisis

For three years, we were lucky. We made it through most of President Trump's term in office without facing a crisis that required great presidential leadership. Now our luck has run out, and we are on our own.

It is hard to overstate the scope of the challenge COVID-19 presents to the nation and the world — or the tragic inadequacy of Trump and his administration. Sometimes,

an underestimated president improbably rises to meet the moment: Think of Harry Truman rebuilding a free and peaceful Europe after World War II, or George W. Bush rallying the nation with his bullhorn

in the ruins of the

World Trade Center. But Trump has become smaller, pettier, more self-absorbed. He failed.

There is much that the nation desperately needs right now: more financial help for the tens of millions of newly unemployed; more support for small businesses on the brink of failure; more consistent guidance on surviving the crisis day to day. But there is one need that surpasses all the rest, because meeting it could change everything and put us on the path to recovery: quick, reliable, universal testing that can tell us who has been infected with the novel coronavirus and who has not.

Trump could make that happen. Bizarrely, and tragically, he refuses to act.

Private companies, universities and government scientists have quickly developed an array of tests.

Trump should use his powers under the Defense Production Act to

mandate production of enough test kits — and the build-out of enough

laboratory capacity to process all

those tests promptly — to make it

possible for every American to be

tested periodically. That information would allow the nation to function at some reasonable level for the 12-18 months until, hopefully, we have an effective vaccine.

This would be a massive logistical

effort, analogous to the way auto-

mobile companies shifted to war

production during World War II. It

would necessarily involve sourcing

much needed equipment from other

countries, especially China. Only

the federal government has the

capacity to design and oversee such

a program. Instead, Trump refuses

to do his job.

"States can do their own testing,"

he has said. "We're the federal

government. We're not supposed

to stand on street corners doing

testing."

That is precisely what the federal government should be doing. But it's a daunting task, requiring consistent, determined leadership — which Trump will not even try to provide. What he gives us instead is "The Trump Show," a daily televised farce in which he tries to keep alive his reelection hopes by deflecting responsibility and trying to change the subject.

Governors have had to fill the vacuum. Gov. Andrew Cuomo of New York, the epicenter of infection in this country, has displayed steady leadership and continues to give must-see daily briefings that provide not just solid information but a welcome measure of comfort. Govs. Jay Inslee of Washington and Gavin Newsom of California reacted to COVID-19 with early stay-at-home orders that kept infections, hospitalizations and deaths in their states relatively low.

Cuomo and Newsom have both organized regional consortia of states, one in the Northeast and one on the West Coast, that will coordinate the steps they take toward reopening once that process can be started. Governors of seven Midwest states reportedly are forming a similar compact. Cuomo said Thursday that the Northeast states will keep their social distancing orders in place at least through May 15. Such coordinated blocs of states will surely do all they can to bring testing capacity up to scale — but it is hard to see how they could even get close to universal testing without help from the federal government.

Private companies will play a role as well. Amazon Chief Executive Jeff Bezos (who owns The Washington Post) said Thursday that he hopes to soon begin regular testing of all of Amazon's 900,000-plus employees. Other big employers are likely to follow. But that will be just a start.

Thus far, only about 3.3 million Americans have been tested — out of a population of 328 million. Unbelievably, according to figures from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, fewer tests are being done this week than last week. How is this possible? Does American exceptionalism now mean hapless incompetence rather than resolute strength?

Meanwhile, Trump is reportedly still fixated on the dangerous fantasy of reopening the country in two weeks and filling professional sports stadiums with cheering fans. We will win this war because we must. But victory won't come because of Trump, it will come in spite of him.

Eugene Robinson's email address is eugenerobinson@washpost.com.

LETTERS

Thank you from the employees of the Wabash Post Office

The United States Postal Service is committed to delivering your mail and packages throughout the current pandemic. We are proud of our role in providing an essential service to every community. The one constant throughout the crisis has been our commitment to fulfilling the vital mission of the Postal Service.

We would like to share the following information and requests:

■ USPS wants to help you — and our employees — safe. We ask for you to maintain a safe distance at all times. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends keeping a distance of 6 feet or more between other individuals. Please allow a safe distance between you and your letter carrier or post office clerk while they are performing their duties.

■ We know it is a challenge to find ways to connect with family and friends at this time. Please remember anything without postage and not related to USPS business should not be placed in mailboxes.

■ It is important to note that the CDC, the World Health Organization and the U.S. Surgeon General have all said there is a very low risk that this virus is being spread through the mail.

Our mission to bind the nation together is achieved through the tireless efforts and sacrifices of our dedicated employees. The outpouring of support you have shown has had a great impact on everyone at the Postal Service. Knowing how much you care means everything to us. On behalf of all employees at the Wabash Post Office. Thank you.

Ryan McDonald
Wabash Postmaster

You are not a teetering contraption

"Worrying," wrote Lewis Thomas, "is the most natural and spontaneous of all human functions." Thomas — physician, philosopher, essayist, administrator (dean of the Yale and New York University medical schools, head of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center) — thought we worry too much about our health, as though a human being is "a teetering, fallible contraption,

always needing watching and patching, always on the verge of flapping to pieces."

So at this worrisome moment, fill your idle hands with Bill Bryson's 2019 book, "The Body: A Guide for Occupants."

It will fill your mind with reasons for believing that you are not flimsy, even though "we are just a collection of inert components."

Including seven billion billion billion (7,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 atoms, not one of which cares a fig about you.

In the time it took to read this far

into this sentence, your busy body manufactured a million red blood cells that will surge through you every 50 seconds — 150,000 times

(a hundred or so miles) before, in about four months, they die and are replaced for the greater good, meaning: for you.

Bryson says it is estimated that every day between one and five of your cells turns cancerous and your immune system kills them:

"A couple of dozen times a week, well over a thousand times a year, you get the most dreaded disease of our age, and each time your body saves you."

What he calls "three billion years of evolutionary tweaks" have taught your body some neat tricks.

Viruses, Bryson says, "bide their time." A previously unknown one, found in Siberia in 2014 after having been confined in permafrost for 30,000 years, was injected into an amoeba and "sprang into action with the lustiness of youth." To stave off death from the coronavirus, we diligently scrub our largest organ, our skin, the surface of which, the epidermis, is ... dead.

Bryson says "all that makes you lovely is deceased. Where body meets air, we are all cadavers," shedding a million dead flakes an hour.

Just as well, considering that every square centimeter of your skin contains about 100,000 microbes, and about 200 species of microbes inhabit your skin. Some of the many trillions of living things that call your body home were

studied in North Carolina State University's Belly Button Biodiversity Project, which swabbed the belly buttons of 60 randomly selected Americans and found 2,368 species of bacteria, 1,458 of which were previously unknown to science.

The three spongy pounds of mostly water, plus fat and protein, called the brain exists in darkness, yet it tells us everything we know about the world that it has never seen. "Just sitting quietly, doing nothing at all, your brain churns through more information in 30 seconds than the Hubble Space Telescope has processed in thirty years."

A grain-of-sand-sized bit of cortex "could hold two thousand terabytes of information," enough to store every movie, or 1.2 billion copies of Bryson's book. Small wonder this 2 percent of body weight uses 20 percent of our energy.

The energy expended by the 200 million steps you will take in your lifetime comes from improved modern nutrition that explains why puberty, which began at 16 or 17 five centuries ago, now generally begins at 11. Food, of which Americans consume unhealthy amounts (25 percent more calories than in 1970, when they already were not svelte), makes this nation simultaneously overfed and nutritionally deficient. Millennials scarf down avocado toast, oblivious of the fact that one avocado has, Bryson says, "five times as much saturated fat as a small bag of potato chips."

He adds: "The amount of vegetables eaten by the average American between 2000 and 2010 dropped by 30 pounds," which is not alarming because

America's most popular vegetable "by a very wide margin is the French fry."

The aforementioned brain does not always generate prudent choices but it did rid the world of the most devastating disease, smallpox, which, Bryson reminds us, "infected nearly everyone who was exposed to it and killed about 30 percent of victims" — about half a billion in the 20th century.

This is one of many reasons why "if you are a seventy-year old man in America today, you have only a 2 percent chance of dying in the next year. In 1940, that probability was reached at age fifty-six."

Globally, the approximately 160,000 people who will die today picked a good time to live. And it is highly probable that the ratio of human worrying about health, to actually worrisome conditions, will continue to enlarge.

George Will's email address is george.will@washpost.com.

College graduate seeks ways to boost English vocabulary

DEAR ABBY: I am a 26-year-old college graduate. I immigrated here in 2001, so English is my second language. I have no accent, and I have been doing well in my life overall, except I score low on reading and written communication when I take exams.

Dear Abby



I'm intelligent and a quick learner, but my vocabulary is kind of limited, and it makes me feel stupid, especially when I don't score well on exams. I try to read, but I don't always have the time. Do you have ideas on how I can improve my vocabulary or do better on exams? — Smart But Feels Stupid

DEAR SMART: I know someone who, like you, immigrated to the United States in her early 20s after having spent her first 17 years in Russia. From there she went to Italy, where she learned to speak Italian. From there she came to the U.S.

When I asked her how she learned English, she told me it was by watching American television. If there was a word she didn't understand, she would look it up in a dictionary. Not only can this be fun, I have heard others say that's the way they learned English, too.

She also read books in English with a dictionary by her side. Audiobooks could be helpful, too. An adult education class might help you not only improve your vocabulary, but also help you sharpen your written English skills. Please consider it.

DEAR ABBY: My 11-year-old niece sometimes calls my 7-year-old son fat, which hurts him to the core. He's very close with his cousins, and we get together a lot. I have talked to my sister on numerous occasions about it.

My son knows it's not OK to make fun of how others look, and he doesn't understand why she says these mean things to him. She's old enough to know better. I don't know how to get through to my sister that this behavior should be reprimanded when she doesn't seem to care. — Fed Up In Wisconsin

DEAR FED UP: Your sister's parenting skills appear to be questionable. Because she refuses to teach her daughter consideration for the feelings of others, or reprimand her when she's cruel and hurtful, see less of the two of them and spend more time with the other cousins.

DEAR ABBY: When I take my dog for a walk, I always carry little doggy bags and pick up his business. I live in a residential neighborhood with alleys behind the houses. After my dog does his business, I pick it up and often throw the tied-up bag in a trash can along the alley. Is this rude? Is it illegal to put things in other people's trash cans? My dog may make several stops along our long walks, and I don't want to carry his waste with me the whole trip. — Considerate In Colorado

DEAR CONSIDERATE: Whether it's illegal in your community is something you should check locally because there may be an ordinance that forbids it. While I can't speak for everyone, some of the homeowners those trash cans belong to would strenuously object to someone throwing dog doo-doo into them. That's why my advice is, "When in doubt — DON'T."

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Good name, for short
- 4 In the distance
- 8 Trawler's haul
- 12 Get more mellow
- 13 "Superman" reporter Lois
- 14 Secluded
- 15 Capone foe
- 16 Diet
- 17 Humerus neighbor
- 18 Road sign
- 20 Supple
- 22 Lost a lap?
- 23 Calendar abbr.
- 24 Famous wizard
- 28 Startled cries
- 31 It's really tacky
- 34 Long time
- 35 Hearty laugh
- 36 Per
- 37 "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" network
- 38 Creole veggie

DOWN

- 1 Marauds
- 2 Marsh stalker
- 3 Trattoria sauce
- 4 Mention casually
- 5 Just
- 6 Pantry pest
- 7 Get dizzy
- 8 Droop
- 9 "Mark Twain Tonight!" actor
- 10 Baxter or Bancroft
- 11 Honey
- 19 Enthusiasm
- 21 Scottish for John
- 25 City on the Truckee
- 26 Timber wolf
- 27 Length unit
- 29 Armed conflict
- 30 Mexican Mrs.
- 61 Sum up

Answer to Previous Puzzle

NOOK	FAD	ALL
IRENE	LUKE	TOE
PERIL	NAIROBI	
OUR	TOAD	TUNES
AGO	LISPS	AYN
HENS	EPIC	IRKS
URSA	DICE	NINO
WHALE	RETE	DEB
RUSSELL	IDOL	GAS
AMT	DOE	DIXIE
PSI	SSE	NEMO

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SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

	8	2	6	1					
2			1						
	6		3		7				
31	32	33	34	35					
36		37	38						
39		40	41						
42	43		44	45	46	47			
48	49		50	51					
52		53	54	55					
56		57	58						
59		60	61						

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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

5	7	1	2	6	8	9	4	3
9	8	2	4	5	3	7	1	6
3	6	4	9	1	7	5	8	2
1	9	3	8	7	6	2	5	4
4	5	8	3	9	2	6	7	1
6	2	7	5	4	1	8	3	9
7	4	5	1	2	9	3	6	8
8	1	9	6	3	5	4	2	7
2	3	6	7	8	4	1	9	5

How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ORJEK



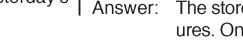
MICPR



PTYREO

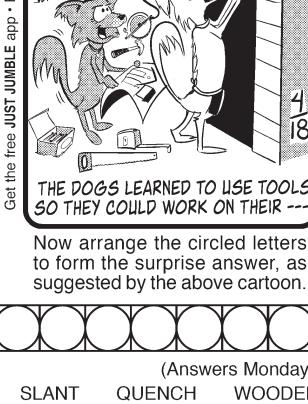


TTTEAL



THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app. Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Answer here: 

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Answer: MUSIC SLANT QUENCH WOODEN

Today's Answer: The store's window featured all-female life-size figures. One could call them — "WOMANNEQUINS"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"This worm looks lost!"

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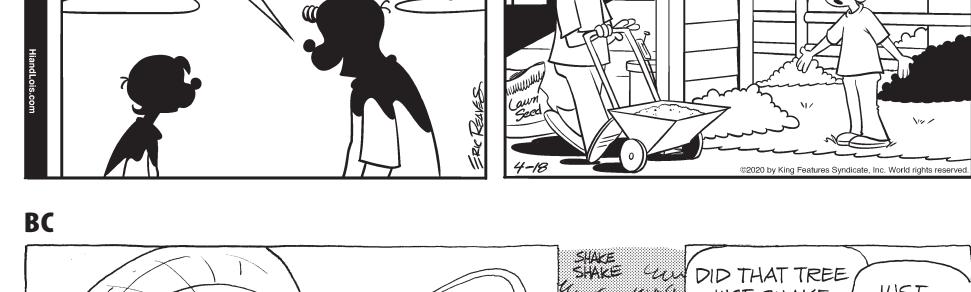
BEETLE BAILEY



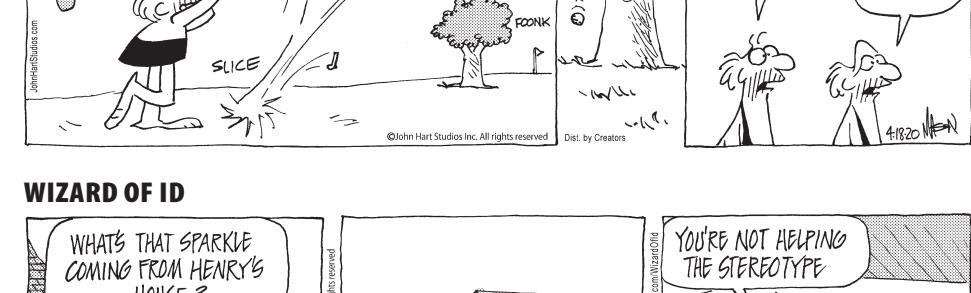
BLONDIE



HI & LOIS



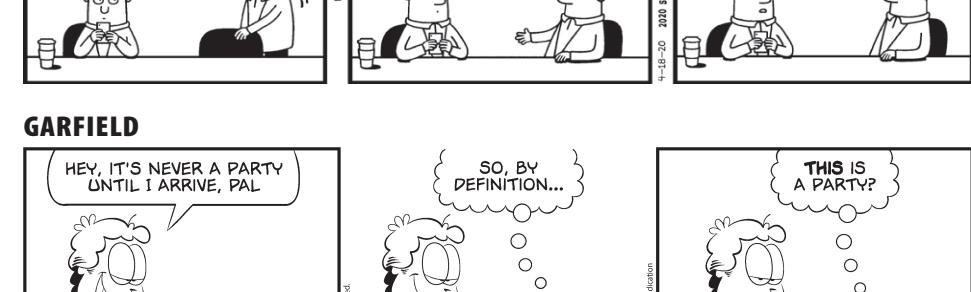
BC



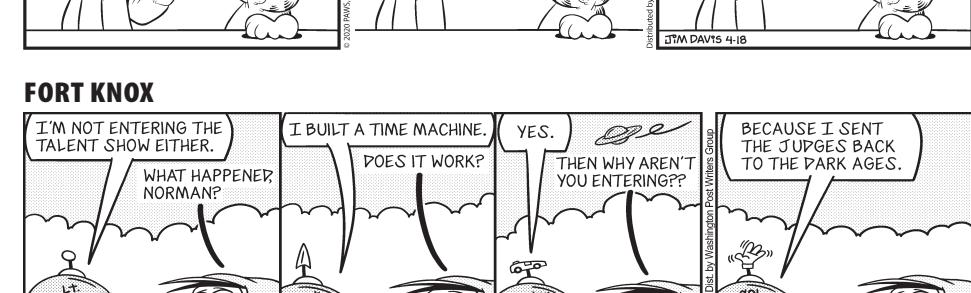
WIZARD OF ID



DILBERT



GARFIELD



FORT KNOX



PICKLES



Satan is the father of lies

From the writings of Rev. Billy Graham

Q: Growing up I was taught that lying was bad, unacceptable, and would lead to destruction. Today it seems that our culture accepts lies and there's no need for shame or guilt. Why is this? — B.L.

A: As sin has progressed and gained momentum, man kind seems to have lost the ability to be shocked. Behavior that was once considered abominable is now acceptable. There are many new sinners today, but there aren't any new sins, just the old ones clothed in different rags.

Satan is the father of lies (John 8:44) and has been lying from the beginning. He was behind each of the major crises of faith and obedience down through the centuries. And he still deceives gullible

men and women of every age.

An old Scottish clergyman said the devil has two lies that he uses at two different stages. Before we commit a sin, he tells us that one little sin doesn't matter — "no one will know." The second lie is that after we've sinned he tells us we're hopeless.

Truth is we have all fallen, individually and collectively, and God does not consider this a trifling matter. Judgment hangs over the whole human race because of rebellion and disobedience.

God's Word says, "Sin en-

tered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned" (Romans 5:12, NIV).

The Good News is because Jesus Christ came and died on the cross and rose from the dead, we are not in a hopeless position. We can be reconciled to God and put back in right relationship with Him by accepting His provision for sin: His Son, Jesus Christ.

It is important to know God's truth set forth in Scripture so that we can confidently discern between His truth and Satan's lies.

CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present.

Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

"K H C T C Z F Z K C L F S Y Z S T C B H N F E K H D

F S J S W C S H C C X J C K I B H F C L F S

Y Z S T C J S W C F E K H D F S W N J C X R . "

— M S O C O Z N B H F

Previous Solution: "My greatest point is my persistence. I never give up in a match. ... I fight until the last ball." — Bjorn

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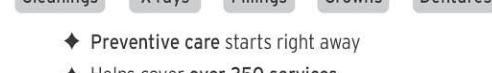
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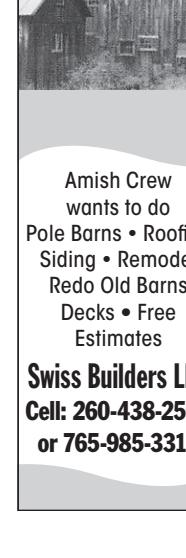
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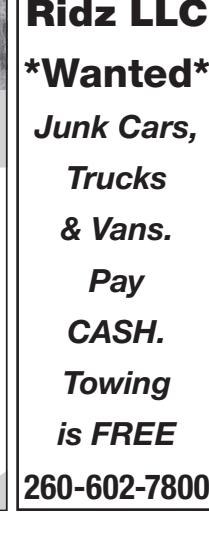
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2 BR 208 S Branson St; \$125/wk; tenant pays all utilities

2 BR 509 E Bradford St; \$165-175/wk; basic utilities included

2 BR 616 S Boots St; \$100/wk; tenant pays electric

2 BR 624 S Boots St; \$140-150/wk basic utilities included

2 BR 215 E 3rd St \$170/wk; basic utilities included

3 BR 509 E Bradford St \$200/wk; basic utilities included

3 BR Duplex 104 Sace St; \$115/wk tenant pays all

utilities
3 BR Duplex 501 W 1st St; \$115/wk; tenant pays all utilities

JONESBORO 1 BR 224 E 10th St \$100/wk; tenant pays electric

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TV \$120/wk

2 BR 920 S Boots St; \$350/mo; tenant pays all utilities

2 BR 1740 W 10th St; \$300/mo; tenant pays all utilities

3 BR Duplex 104 S Race St; \$500/mo; tenant pays all utilities

3 BR Duplex 501 W 1st St; \$500/mo tenant pays all utilities

3 BR 616 N Washington St \$600/mo; tenant pays all utilities

3 BR 1619 W Jeffras St; \$600/mo; tenant pays all utilities

3 BR 436 E Marshall St \$600/mo; tenant pays all utilities

3 BR 613 E Swayzee St \$600/mo; tenant pays all utilities

4 BR 1635 W 4th St \$600/mo; tenant pays all utilities

MATTHEWS 2 BR 211 E 9th St \$500/mo; tenant pays all utilities

Please call us at 765-662-1499 or visit our website if you have any questions www.hoosierrentalgroup.com

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Homes for Rent

MARION

1 BR 210 S Branson St \$390/mo; tenant pays all utilities

2 BR 208 S Branson St \$540/mo; tenant pays all utilities

2 BR 920 S Boots St; \$350/mo; tenant pays all utilities

2 BR 1740 W 10th St; \$300/mo; tenant pays all utilities

3 BR Duplex 104 S Race St; \$500/mo; tenant pays all utilities

3 BR Duplex 501 W 1st St; \$500/mo tenant pays all utilities

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MATTHEWS 2 BR 211 E 9th St \$500/mo; tenant pays all utilities

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08 V.W. EOS \$600
04 Nissan 350 \$600
06 Silverado \$900
10 Navigator \$1000
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FINANCIAL

LEGALS

White Space Sells

Auction Sales

ONLINE Only AUCTION

MULTI-CONSIGNOR GUN & AMMO

Bidding Ends: Thurs, May 7 @ 6 PM

SAMPLE LIST OF GUNS & AMMO:

Mossburg 935 12 Gauge
American Tactical 300 blackout
Benelli Montefeltro 12 Gauge
IWI Tavor X95 XB16
Kimber Pro Crimson Carry II LG
Sig Sauer 1911 Scorpion
Smith & Wesson 500 8.375 barrel
Winchester Model 55 Rifle
Two 64qty Gun Safes Stack on Armorguard
Ammunition for 9mm, 5.56, 39mm, .45, .38

NO OPEN INSPECTION DATE

Guns to be Picked-up @ Hillside Shooting Sports
7870 N Mayne Rd, Roanoke - During Business Hours After Auction Ends

Ammo to be Picked-Up @ Ness Bros Office
519 N Jefferson St, Huntington - During Business Hours After Auction Ends

TERMS & CONDITIONS: Guns must be transferred, picked up or shipped through Hillside Shooting Sports. There will be a transfer fee per gun. Have the FFL in your area contact Hillside for transfers out of state at 260-672-3715.

SALES TAX & GUN TRANSFER LOCATION FOR NON-LICENSEES: Hillside Shooting Sports has a federal firearms licensee. Before any firearm is transferred into your possession, you will have to fill out a 4473 and pass a background check. See our website for details.

For Free Recorded Msg, Call 1-877-297-7407 ID 6661
Hillside Shooting, Zahm, Owens - Sellers;
Andy Eckert - Auction Manager, 260-224-9058

260-356-3911 or 800-356-3911
#AC39600001 **www.NessBros.com**

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Auction Sales

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Sell Your In The Classifieds!

Community

Duke Energy lineworkers ask the public to 'shine a light'

Front-line workers to be honored as part of National Lineworker Appreciation Day

STAFF REPORT

Snapped poles and tangled power lines over a battered landscape of downed trees are the usual challenges lineworkers face after severe weather strikes – but the COVID-19 pandemic and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control's recommended safety guidelines added new complexities to lineworkers' already complicated work, according to Lew Middleton, senior communications consultant for Duke Energy.

Spring storms that barreled across the Midwest and Southeast this month tested even the most seasoned lineworkers, who adjusted to new social distancing and face mask requirements while

working to restore power to nearly 1 million Duke Energy customers – including essential services like hospitals, grocery stores and schools that provide meals.

"Electricity plays an essential role during a time when many people – because of stay-at-home orders – now live, work, eat, teach, learn and play exclusively at home, every day," stated Middleton.

April 18 is National Lineworker Appreciation Day – a day set aside each year to honor the men and women who dedicate themselves to the often hazardous work of keeping the lights on. But this year, Duke Energy is sharing the spotlight with all essential workers who are keeping the nation safe and functioning

during the pandemic.

As part of the shared recognition, Middleton stated Duke Energy is encouraging its customers and communities to turn on front lights at 9 p.m. Saturday, April 18 for its "Front lights for Front-Line Workers" initiative to recognize all front-line heroes.

Those who wish to participate are encouraged to use the hashtags #FrontLights4FrontLineWorkers and #ThankALineman on social media.

More than 7,800 Duke Energy and contract lineworkers are part of the Duke Energy team in six states, including Indiana. They are responsible for constructing, operating and maintaining equipment and more than 300,000 miles of power lines in Duke Energy's service territories – that's enough to wrap around the Earth 12 times.

COVID-19-RELATED COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Community Foundation establishes COVID-19 assistance program

the Fort Wayne location or to your local Parkview community hospital.

Living Well in Wabash County offers food, transportation, support

The Friendly Caller Program may be reached by calling 260-563-4475 to request a daily call to check in on you during this time when seniors will be home more than usual. Living Well in Wabash County will now pick up and deliver pre-paid groceries and essentials within Wabash County.

For more information or to request special delivery call 260-563-7536. The service is based upon availability. This temporary delivery service is free to adults age 60 and older; normal one-way transit fees apply for 59 and under. Until further notice, the county-wide transit system for all ages is operating for essential travel only which is work, food, pharmacy and pre-scheduled medical within Wabash County.

The hours of operation for the system are from 5:45 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Those wanting to schedule a ride or delivery should call dispatch from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday by calling 260-563-536 or toll-free at 888-498-4400. The deadline to schedule next day transit rides is 4 p.m. Adults age 60 and older ride Wabash County Transit by donation. Riders age 59 and younger pay \$2 per one way trip in Wabash and North Manchester with rides anywhere else in Wabash County at \$4 per one way trip. Low-income households can apply for the Share the Fare program.

Second Harvest Food Bank seeks volunteers, donations

Those who are interested in volunteering may contact Kellie Arrowood, volunteer coordinator for Second Harvest, by calling the office at 765-287-8698, emailing karrowood@curehunger.org or visiting www.CureHunger.org.

Red Cross to hold virtual classes for COVID-19 disaster response

Volunteers urged to consider registering for online learning sessions

STAFF REPORT

In response to COVID-19 concerns, the Indiana Region of the American Red Cross has shifted its in-person classes to virtual classes to ensure trained volunteers are available to provide vital services, according to a press release.

"The American Red Cross responds to approximately 64,000 disasters a year – most of them localized events. Our trained volunteers provide emotional support, financial assistance, and information to help those affected begin the process of recovery. There are immediate needs for volunteers to support their communities. Participants can register as a new or current Red Cross volunteer and receive basic

skills training to respond to local disasters, such as fires or severe weather events," stated the release.

These classes will be offered virtually through Zoom. To register, visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/LearningARC.

Classes will be held at the following dates and times:

■ 10 to 11:30 a.m. Monday, April 20, "Disaster Basics: An Orientation."

■ 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, April 23, "Zero to Hero: Begin a Trainee, Finish a Responder."

■ 9:30 to 10 a.m. Monday, April 27, "Mass Care: An Overview."

■ 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, April 27, "Shelter Fundamentals."

■ 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 28, "Feeding Fundamentals."

■ 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, April 29, "Distribution of Emergency Supplies Fundamentals."

■ Monday, May 4 to Wednesday, May 6 (take at your own pace), "Disaster Assessment Part I: Conducting Detailed Damage Assessments."

■ 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Thursday, May 7, "Disaster Assessment Part II: Map Meet-Up."

The mask-making kits may be picked up from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday at 3718 New Vision Drive, located on the Parkview Regional Medical Center campus in Fort Wayne. Volunteers should turn on to New Vision Drive from Diebold Road. Signs will be posted to indicate where you can drive up to easily receive the kits without leaving your vehicle.

All completed masks can be returned to

Urbana wanted street lights and two fire engines

Just over a century ago tiny towns and villages across America were rushing to install electric street lights, following the lead of larger towns and cities which had already made the transition. At the beginning of World War I, many small communities had either

no street lighting or still had gas lamps, which at best provided only feeble illumination of thoroughfares and sidewalks.

Urbana, seven miles

or so north of Wabash, didn't want to be left out, and so in the spring of 1916, its 250 residents drafted a contract with the Wabash Water and Light Company to obtain an electric line which would provide the town with its first lighting system.

The Plain Dealer remarked that the new street lights would "... remove from the town the appearance of a mere farming community and bring forth its true aspect of a busy little commercial center."

With the expected arrival of electricity later in the summer, overhead lights would brighten six intersections in town. A few homeowners announced they would electrify their houses, and that caused the PD to predict that oil lamps and lanterns would soon be things of the past in Urbana.

And, in a further burst of civic pride, community leaders revealed that a fire department was being formed and that the village had agreed to purchase two modern fire engines. And if that were not enough, plans

to pave a street or two and to construct a sewer system were in the offing.

But along came America's entrance into World War I, and that slowed the entire project. It was several more years before many of these plans came to fruition.

The initial announcement of these changes came at a banquet of the Urbana Businessmen's Association in the Central Hotel in the little town. The building that formerly housed the hotel burned in 1961 during a mid-April snowstorm.

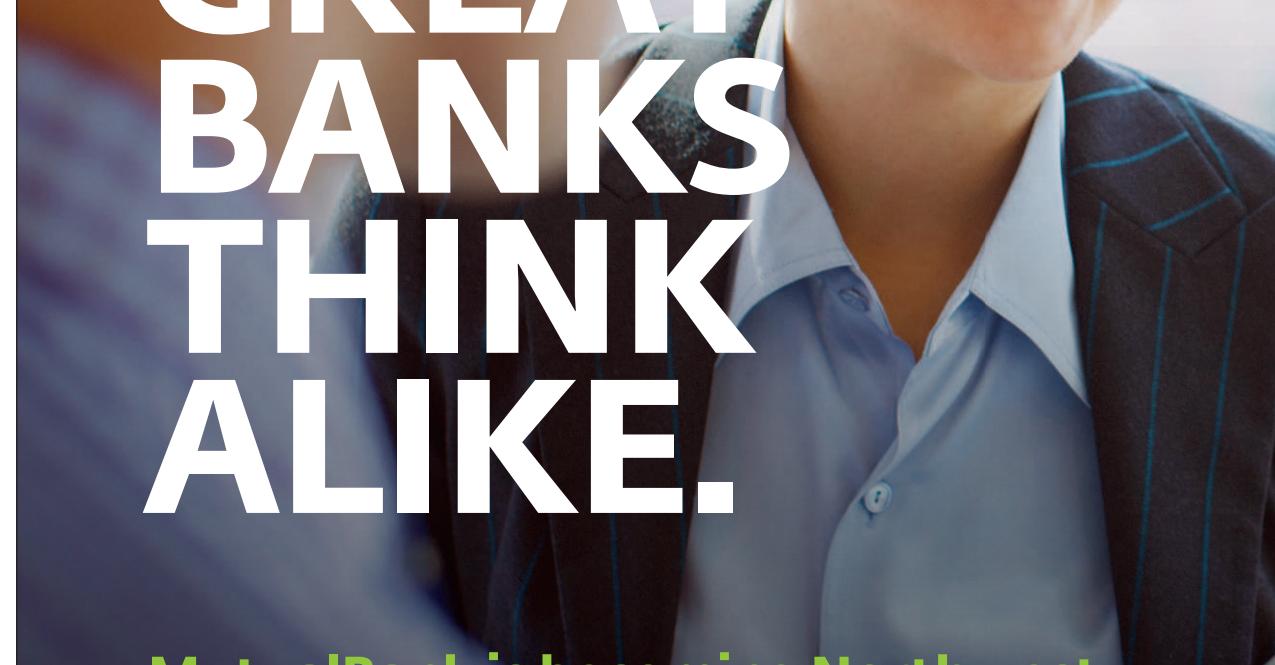
Gas company claims

On the very day of the announcement of Urbana's electric street lighting project, The Indiana Gas Company, a provider in this part of the state of both natural and manufactured gas, began a series of advertisements extolling the advantages of gas street lamps.

The company boasted of the softer, more accommodating light emitted by gas lamps and of the safety of having the lights which were inspected daily. Translated, that meant that someone had to light the lamps each evening and extinguishing them each morning.

But the campaign by the gas company was too little and too late, for the trend to electric street lighting was well underway and it was unstoppable.

This column was originally published on April 18, 2018. Pete Jones writes a weekly column on local history for the Wabash Plain Dealer. He writes about people, places and events in and around Wabash County. Contact him by mail at 1160 Sunset Drive, Wabash, IN 46992 or by email at peteinwabash@comcast.net.



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